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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/715,978	11/17/2000	Alex Y. Chan	062891. 0446	6685

7590 08/11/2003
Barton E. Showalter
Baker Botts L.L.P.
2001 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75201

EXAMINER

GROSS, KENNETH A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2122

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2003

3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/715,978

Applicant(s)

CHAN ET AL.

Examiner

Kenneth A Gross

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3-6, 9, 11-14, 17, 19-22, 25, and 27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by “Developing a WFT Workflow System”, Template Software Inc., 1998.

In regard to Claim 1, the Template Software reference teaches: (a) a workflow (Page 2-6, figure 2-2, item “Executable applications ready to be fielded”); (b) a run-time container operable to execute the workflow (Page 2-6, figure 2-2, item “Deployed WFT workflow system”). The server item in this figure executes the workflow, as further taught on Page 7-4; (c) a design-time container operable to edit the workflow (Page 2-6, figure 2-2, item “WFT Development Environment”); (d) a contract specifying programming entity interaction. As seen in Figure 2-2, the tree programming entities interact with each other (as indicated by the arrows between the entities). Claims 9, 17, and 25 correspond directly with Claim 1 and are rejected for the same reasons as Claim 1.

In regard to Claim 3, the run-time container executes the workflow, and hence the service it provides the workflow is execution of the workflow. Claims 11, 19, and 27 correspond directly with Claim 3 and are rejected for the same reasons as Claim 3.

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In regard to Claim 4, the design-time container creates and edits the workflow, and hence the service it provides the workflow is the creation and manipulation of the workflow. Claims 12, 20, and 28 correspond directly with Claim 4 and are rejected for the same reasons as Claim 4.

In regard to Claim 5, the Template Software reference teaches a workflow task, which defines a type of work activity (Page 5-2). The workflow task is a step in a complete workflow, and can be created and then reused. The workflow task is created out of a task class, and hence has variables associated with it (Page 5-31). A custom workflow task as described on Page 5-9 is a workflow task that has been modified by providing values to the variables through an editor. The contract is the relationship between the design-time container and the workflow, and the editor of the design-time container adds a value to the variable of the workflow. Claims 13, 21, and 29 correspond directly with Claim 5 and are rejected for the same reasons as Claim 5.

In regard to Claim 6, the Template software reference teaches that the workflow server or nodes used to execute the workflow receives the workflow applications. The contract is the relationship between the workflow and the server and nodes, and the mapping of application to server and nodes. Claims 14, 22, and 30 correspond directly with Claim 6 and are rejected for the same reasons as Claim 6.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2, 7, 8, 10, 15, 16, 18, 23, 24, 26, and 31-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Developing a WFT Workflow System", Template Software Inc., 1998 in view of Jolissaint et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,455,903).

In regard to Claim 2, the Template Software reference teaches the system of Claim 1, but does not teach an interactive voice response unit comprises the run-time container and the workflow is operable to direct the operation of the voice response unit. Jolissaint, however, does teach an interactive voice response unit (Figure 2, item 4) that is operated by the workflow (Column 4, lines 4-31). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to create a system comprising a workflow developer and executer and a workflow as taught by the Template Software reference, where the workflow is operable to direct a voice response unit, since this allows the voice response unit to be automated by the workflow. Claims 10, 18, and 26 correspond directly with Claim 2 and are rejected for the same reasons as Claim 2.

In regard to Claim 7, the Template Software reference teaches the system of Claim 1, but does not teach that the workflow comprises a workflow step operable to direct an interactive voice response unit to play a message in a message variable, a workflow task providing a value to the message variable, and the contract associates the value with the variable. Jolissaint, however, does teach an object used in the workflow that contains code executable to play a voice message. The object is created with the ability to hold data. The voice message is then written to the object. The object obviously uses a variable to hold the voice message. (Column 8, lines 36-43 and Column 9, lines 5-11 and Figure 10, items 151-154). The contract is the relationship between the design-time container and the workflow, and the editor of the design-time container

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adds a value to the variable of the workflow. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to create a system comprising a workflow developer and executer and a workflow as taught by the Template Software reference, where the workflow directs an interactive voice response unit to play a message in a message variable, a workflow task providing a value to the message variable, since this allows the voice response unit to automatically save and play messages. Claims 8, 15, 16, 23, 24, 31, and 32 correspond directly with Claim 7 and are rejected for the same reasons as Claim 7.

In regard to Claim 33, Claim 33 corresponds directly with Claims 1, 7, and 8 and is rejected for the reasons specified in these claims.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Goodridge et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,848,393) teaches a workflow management system.

Tarumi et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,918, 226) teaches a workflow system for operating and managing jobs.

Flores et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,734,837)

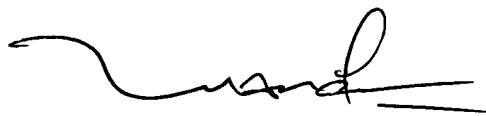
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth A Gross whose telephone number is (703) 305-0542. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30-5.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q Dam can be reached on (703) 305-4552. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7240 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

KAG
July 29, 2003



TUAN Q. DAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER